With the presence of ministers, regional authorities and representatives of public and private sector, Antofagasta held a reception ceremony marking the arrival of the Containerised Bulk Handling System at the Port of Antofagasta, which will be used for transportation and boarding of zinc concentrate from Bolivia, under the treaty of peace and friendship of 1904.

The ceremony took place on the esplanade of Multioperado terminal and was attended by Economy Minister, Luis Felipe Céspedes, and Environment Minister, Marcelo Mena who was accompanied by the local authority regional governor, Valentin Volta, along with representatives of the private sector, universities and the community.

The measure is part of the modernization plan being undertaken by the Port of Antofagasta and is one of the commitments contained in the Clean Production Agreement, which seeks to incorporate additional to those contained in the current regulation, measures associated with the prevention and control emissions of particulate matter (PM) in transport, storage, loading, and unloading of mineral concentrates, which are transferred through the port of Antofagasta.

At the ceremony, the general manager of the Empresa Portuaria Antofagasta, Carlos Escobar described the act as an important port technological improvement, particularly in terms of sustainability and environmental care milestone.

"The arrival of these 220 containers represents the initial milestone in the transformation process of the port of Antofagasta, which aims to have a more comprehensive view on sustainability and a more active role in the community. We want to move forward decisively towards a more modern and competitive operation, but at the same time sustainable and friendly to our environment," Carlos explained.
Meanwhile, the Economy Minister said the arrival of the new containers, reinforcing the competitiveness and sustainability of the port terminal.

"This is an excellent demonstration of work and when there is no dialogue, we can make significant progress for both the port development and the community. Empresa Portuaria Antofagasta has been in tune with the introduction of advanced technologies, with two very clear objectives, the first is to become more competitive, more productive, and the second being more sustainable and I think that is good news for region to Antofagasta and the country," said the Secretary of State.

The Environment Minister, Marcelo Mena, meanwhile referred to the importance of finding a balance between harmonious development and respect for the environment.

"This shows that it is not necessary to choose between economic development and the environment, but we can simply find an opportunity to be more efficient and pollute less" Marcelo explained.

It is worth mentioning that along with the purchase of new containers, there are a series of complementary works being undertaken in the outer harbour Portezuelo, that will raise the environmental standards of the enclosure and improve the logistics chain of Bolivian bulks.

These include the paving of 100% of discharge and storage areas, construction of two warehouses for confinement of material, together with the lifting of a perimeter fence equipped with nets containing particulate matter (DUST TEX NET). In addition, new dump containers allow a definitive end to the transit of trucks called "encarpados" ensuring the transfer of loads hermetic and safely.

The purchase of the system, amounted to 1.4 billion pesos, which was reached after a rigorous international bidding process. The Port of Antofagasta becomes the first terminal of the System State Public Companies (SEP) to have this technology, significantly improving its environmental performance.